

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 A-01

OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 CPR-01 /048 W

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O 281733Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6001

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. LL652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: LONDON L5037

1. THIS MESSAGE INCLUDES TALKING POINTS FOR VICE
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH EMBASSY STAFF PLUS BACKGROUND
NOTES ON PRINCIPALS IN THE PILGRIMS RECEPTION
OCTOBER 4. ADDITIONAL BIOS TO FOLLOW.

2. MEETING WITH EMBASSY STAFF:

A. TO BE HELD AT THREE O'CLOCK IN EMBASSY
-CAFETERIA AREA WITH APPROXIMATELY 300 AMERICAN
AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES. AMBASSADOR ARMSTRONG WILL INTRO-
DUCE VICE PRESIDENT. MEETING TO LAST 15-20 MINUTES,
BEFORE VICE PRESIDENT MOVES TO EMBASSY AUDITORIUM FOR
3:30 PRESS CONFERENCE.

3 B. TALKING POINTS:

-- VICE PRESIDENT MAY WISH COMMENT ON INDIAN ART EXHIBIT
WHICH IS OCCASION FOR VISIT.

-- STAFF WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT
POLITICAL SCENE AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN U.S.

-- VICE PRESIDENT MAY TAKE OCCASION TO SALUTE BRITISH
AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THIS EMBASSY --

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AND OTHER U.S. EMBASSIES -- FOR THEIR LONG AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, NOTING IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND SUCH COUNTRIES AS U.K.

3. THE PILGRIMS, LEADING ANGLO-AMERICAN SOCIETY IN U.K., FOUNDED HERE IN 1902, WITH PARALLEL PILGRIMS OF U.S. FOUNDED 1903. INTENTION WAS TO ESTABLISH COMMON GROUND ON WHICH ENGLISHMEN AND AMERICANS COULD MEET. DURING WW I, PILGRIMS FOUNDED AMERICAN OFFICERS' CLUB IN LONDON. SOCIETY ALSO SUGGESTED MEMORIAL TO PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT IN FORM OF STATUE IN GROSVENOR SQUARE, UNVEILED BY MRS. ROOSEVELT IN 1948. SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP LIMITED TO 750. ONE OF ITS PRIZED CUSTOMS -- APPROVED IN PERSON BY EDWARD VII AND PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT -- IS UNIQUE LOYAL TOAST, "THE QUEEN AND THE PRESIDENT," COUPLED IN SINGLE PHRASE. SECRETARY KISSINGER DELIVERED MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH TO PILGRIMS DINNER IN DECEMBER 1973.

4. OCCASION FOR OCTOBER 4 PILGRIMS RECEPTION IS CLOSING (SEPTEMBER 26) OF MAJOR EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN ART "1750 - 1800: TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE," SPONSORED BY PILGRIM YALE UNIVERSITY AND ARTS COUNCIL AT VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM AS BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION. EXHIBIT OPENED JULY 15. PRINCIPAL HOSTS FOR RECEPTION ARE:

A. LORD HARLECH (WILLIAM DAVID ORMSBY GORE), BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON 1961-65. HARLECH IS CHAIRMAN OF HARLECH TELEVISION, KENNEDY MEMORIAL TRUST, EUROPEAN MOVEMENT, AND IS DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF WALES, MEMBER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF KENNEDY INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AT HARVARD, TRUSTEE OF TATE GALLERY, ETC. HE WAS DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT 1966-67. AUTHOR OF BOOK "MUST THE WEST DECLINE," 1969.

B. LORD ASTOR OF HEVER (GAVIN ASTOR), HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS SINCE 1967, PRESIDENT OF COMMONWEALTH PRESS UNION SINCE 1972. HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH REUTERS FROM 1955-61, WAS CO-CHIEF, PROPRIETOR OF THE TIMES 1962-66. HAS BEEN ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PILGRIMS SINCE 1967. ADV LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASTOR (NEE LADY IRENE HAIG) IS DAUGHTER OF LATE FIELD MARSHAL EARL HAIG.

C. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, VICE PRESIDENT WILL MEET ROBERT SIGMON, AMERICAN LAWYER IN MIDDLE TEMPLE WHO HAS BEEN IN U.K. FOR 20 YEARS AND IS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE PILGRIMS. SIGMON ORGANIZED VICTORIA AND ALBERT EXHIBIT OF AMERICAN ART SPONSORED BY PILGRIMS. HE IS A FORMER CHAIRMAN AND CURRENTLY HONORARY SECRETARY

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY IN LONDON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON15472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-1147
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760913/aaaaakow.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 5037
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006